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THOUSANDS VISIT MILL RUINS BEFORE THE FIRE AND AFTER.



of antiquity, contained a valuable and ultra-modern equipment of machinery. A triumph for the men of the Cambridge Borough Fire Brigade was the saving, intact, of the house adjoining the mill ding, and of part of the offices. In spite of the intensity of the flames, the only effect felt inside the cottage was a warmth of the intervening brick wall. At three o'clock on Wednesday morning the side were able to leave the scene of their ten hours fight with the outbreak for their station, but smouldering at the seat of the fire necessitated their return, the same afternoon. In the meantime had been engaged with the stack fire at Milton. Even by Sunday night the menace of the smouldering had not been averted, and the Brigade were once more summoned to the mill ruins. Photos, characteristic of the scenes at the gutted mill buildings, were secured by the "Chronicle" staff camerist. ① The old mill at work, the centre of a peaceful and languid scene. The grain boat, which, laden with sacks, crashed into the roadway, entirely blocking it, early in the conflagration, may clearly be distinguished. ② By way of contrast, the almost identical scene-as it appeared on the day after the week. The firemen are at work on the bridge pumping water into the heart of the smoking debris. The blackened walls in the centre are 40 feet high. ③ A view from the opposite side of the mill pool, ④ from the bank of the Granta back reach behind the mill ruins. ⑤ A partial peep into the heated interior of the shell from the coping of the bridge. ⑥ Some of the belongings hastily removed from mill house occupied by Mr. Edward Baker and his family.

BEAUTY SPOT SAVED.

FRESHMEN AT FENNER'S.

Grantchester Scrapbook 1897 to 1990

Facts, Features and (occasional) Fallacies
reported in Cambridge Newspapers

summarised by

Mike Petty

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Most of these stories originally appeared in the Cambridge Daily/Evening/News or the
Cambridgeshire Weekly News, its sister title.

They are supplemented by some articles published in the
Cambridge Independent Press or Cambridge Chronicle

Most were featured in my 'Looking Back' column in the Cambridge News from 1996-2014

The complete 'Cambridgeshire Scrapbook' of which this is a small section is published online at
[bit.ly/CambsCollection](https://archive.org/search.php?query=creator%3A%22Mike%20Petty%22)

<https://archive.org/search.php?query=creator%3A%22Mike%20Petty%22>

I have digital and other copies of most of the stories summarised.

Many may be read on Flickr in Albums headed 'Cambs News'

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/153171359@N04/albums>

The original volumes are housed in the Cambridgeshire Collection at Cambridge Central Library
where there are many other indexes dating back to 1770.

They also have detailed newspaper cuttings files on over 750 topics that have been compiled since the
1960s.

Newspapers sometimes get things wrong. I copy things out incorrectly. Do check

There are a multitude of spelling and layout errors. Please forgive or correct them

News never stops but this file was finished on 31 August 2016.

I will maintain supplements and corrections – contact me for anything you need

Please make what use of these notes that you may. Kindly remember where they came from

See my website – www.mikepetty.org.uk for further notes.

Mike Petty, Stretham

2018

Grantchester Scrapbook

1898 04 20

Grantchester Green Man, p3 *

1898 10 07

A service of thanksgiving for the harvest was held at Grantchester. The beautiful old church, made even more attractive by the decorations which embellished every part available of the edifice, was crowded with a congregation whose fervent praises were evidence of a full recognition of the nature of the service. The musical portion was rendered eminently beautiful by the employment of a string orchestra. The nine candelabra by which the church is lighted were hung with small branches of cereals. The mode of lighting the church, resulting in a perfect diffusion of light, enhanced the appearance of an altogether artistically perfect display

1900

1900 03 24

Grantchester carpenter & wife, p3

1900 07 15

Grantchester church, p2

1900 10 08

Special services were held at Grantchester when the occasion was taken to dedicate the new stained glass window that has been presented to the church by the Rev Dr Streane, the vicar. The new window, at the east end of the church, has been erected by Messrs Heaton, Butler & Bayne of London, and is of beautiful design. It was a perpetual reminder of a life of faithful service and of work for God.

1901 05 16

Cambridge Fire Brigade Committee received a letter from the clerk to Trumpington Parish Council asking whether and on what terms the services of the brigade could be engaged in case of fire. Grantchester Parish Council accepted terms for the attendance of the brigade in that parish on condition that the charge for the number of men sent should be limited to the number required

1901 08 12

A man was engaged in carting wheat at Grantchester mill & without detaching the horse from the cart took the animal to the river bank in order to allow it to drink. This part of the river is habitually used for watering horses and in consequence of the dangerous nature of the stream a chain was once extended across the water. This chain is now broken and there was nothing to indicate the situation of a deep hole in the riverbed, into which the horse stumbled. The heavy cart overturned in the strong current from the mill and began to sink, taking the horse with it. The driver was rescued but the horse drowned.

1902 04 24

In the course of works at Grantchester Mill in connection with providing a turbine it had been noticed that the brickwork to the retaining wall which supported the public road was getting somewhat out of repair. The arch over the waterway appeared inadequate to bear any but the ordinary traffic and there was considerable risk if traction engines were allowed to pass. The tenant of the mill had put up a notice that the bridge was unfit for heavy vehicles. The bridge was a private one, although the Council had to make up the roads on either side and the matter was referred to the Highways Committee.

1902 05 23

Grantchester drain, p2

1902 06 05

Grantchester mill bridge, p2

1903 05 18

Grantchester sheep, p4

1903 10 12

There was another heavy downpour of rain; the Cam has but in a few places overflowed its banks and the ferries between Cambridge and Chesterton are still working. The Granta has not behaved so well and the water is already over the banks; there is a vast expanse of water with the tops of the hedges and the trees only showing. At Grantchester mill the road is knee deep. The basement of houses in Newmarket High Street are flooded as are some of the low-lying streets at Saffron Walden and the railway line at Chesterford is threatened with being submerged.

1904 08 13

Grantchester theft, p3

1904 09 10

Grantchester and Haverhill resisters, p3

1905 10 28

An exhibition of watercolour sketches of Grantchester by Mr Payne Garnett, art master of the Leys School is being held at the well-lighted galleries of Crisp and Co., King's Parade. Many of the sketches are of exceedingly high artistic merit including his studies of the river by moonlight. Already most of the pictures have been bespoken. 05 10 28a

1906 03 08

The Battle of Haggis and Dumpling Farms took place on Wednesday. They stand on either side of the road from Coton to Grantchester and here the Cambridge and Oxford University Rifle Volunteer Corps engaged in an interesting encounter. About 1,800 combatants included cadets from the Leys and County Boys Schools, with mounted infantry and cycle contingents on both sides. The rifle fire was continuous and maxim guns added their sinister bark to the noise. Fortunately the weather was fine. 06 03 08a & b

1906 03 10

The John Bull beer house, Swaffham Prior, contained two public rooms and stabling for four horses, it was 34 yards from the Red Lion, a full-license house. Mr Bulman had held the licence since 1898. Lacons had purchased it in 1901 The trade was over two barrels a week as well as ginger wine, which was very good for a beer house, there had been no complaints and it was well-conducted. The licence was renewed. 06 03 10 others: Blue Boar Grantchester, King William Willingham, Plough Cottenham – 06 03 10a

1906 03 10

The Red Cow, Landbeach, sold half a barrel and six dozen bottles of beer a week. A share-out club with 65 members met there fortnightly. Within 760 paces there were 47 private houses and four licensed pubs. The British Queen, with better accommodation, was nearby. The population of the village was 413 and allowing for 78 school children, there was a licensed house to every 67 adults. There were cottages at the back which provided facilities for secret drinking, especially as the house stood back 15 yards from the road. But the landlord was a teetotalter who did not encourage this. Also: Carrier's Cart Shelford, Haunch of Mutton & Plough & Horses Waterbeach, Rose & Crown Willingham, Hare & Hounds Over, Dolphin Stapleford, 06 03 10c & d. County licences – Blue Boar Grantchester, King William Willingham, Plough Comberton, 06 03 10a

1906 07 05

Grantchester house, p1

1906 07 12

Any clerk or artisan with £25 can become the owner of a well-built convenient house just outside the borough boundary in Grantchester within ten minutes' walk of Market Hill. The houses contain eight good rooms with bathroom, two w.c.'s and nice garden. Gas and water laid on. The price is £250 and the balance can be spread over any number of years to suit the purchaser's convenience – E. Parcell & co., Builders, Newnham – advert. 06 07 12a

1907 10 09

Grantchester churchyard would become full within a year. They could purchase additional space - one acre would serve for the next 50 years - and there was land available on three sides of the churchyard. However no burial ground could be opened within 100 yards of a house if the occupier objected. Alternatively they could adopt the Burials Act which meant the Parish Council had to take responsibility and pay for it out of the rates.- 07 10 09b

1909 02 05

In military exercises around Grantchester the University Officer Training Corps attacked Dumpling Hall, near Haggis Gap Farm. Engineers rapidly and noiselessly constructed a bridge of boats across the river and the force advanced over the fields. The night promised to be foggy but turned out bright and starlight with a strong moon so the troops were unusually conspicuous. By the time they arrived the enemy general who had been based there had managed to escape. 09 02 05

1909 03 05

An inquest was held into the death of a domestic servant at a private residence in Grantchester Meadows. She had been standing in front of the fire in a newly-starched dress when it burst into flames. Her employer, a private tutor, wrapped her in a rug and telephoned for the doctor but she was extensively burnt and despite the services of two trained nurses the woman died. 09 03 05

The proposed extension of Grantchester churchyard provoked debate. There was unoccupied ground in the old churchyard which could be used. But this might be the graves of poor people who had been unable to provide a stone. Newnham Croft was expanding more and more and it was undesirable that the burial ground of this increasing population should be in the centre of the village. It would become one of the great cemeteries of the University town. CWN 09 03 26

1909 04 23

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1909 04 23

Grantchester Town Lands Charity inquiry – 09 04 23

1910

1910 02 18

The small piece of land next to the Grantchester churchyard, which has been acquired so that local people can be buried in their own parish, was consecrated by the Bishop of Ely. The proceedings began with a choral service in the church then the Bishop, followed by the choir, clergy and congregation walked round the ground. The Bishop offered up a prayer, the sentence of consecration was read and the Bishop signed it. The procession returned, singing a hymn on the way to the church where the Bishop delivered an address. 10 02 18d

1910 03 18

Newham Croft Institute has had its headquarters in Hardwick Street for some eight years, but the old premises were of a somewhat rough and ready character. The Club first purchased a building which had stood in Grantchester Meadow and had been used as a golf shed. It was built of wood and had a low roof of corrugated iron. In 1906 an appeal was raised and materials of a temporary building which had been used as the Combination Room of Selwyn College purchased. It was removed and re-erected on the present site. 10 03 18c

1910 10 07

The scheme for extending the Borough boundaries so as to include Chesterton, Cherry Hinton and the urban portions of Grantchester, Trumpington and Fen Ditton was formally launched. The boundary with Chesterton is an imaginary line running down the centre of the river which presents legal difficulties over dredging. The river is used by member of the University for rowing but most of the boathouses are on the Chesterton side. The Corporation own a cemetery the parish of Fen Ditton. They have constructed a sewer and laid water mains along Newmarket Road and the land will no doubt be used for building. 10 10 07e & i & j

1911 04 07

The Local Government Board is in favour of the extension of Cambridge to include parts of Chesterton, Cherry Hinton, Grantchester and Trumpington. 11 04 07f

1911 05 12

The camp of the Loyal Suffolk Hussars Regiment of Yeomanry has been pitched in Grantchester Meadows and already the greater part of the canvas village has been erected and presents a very picturesque appearance. There is a large marquee where men will take their meals and portable wooden buildings for the officers' mess. But it is a long walk into Cambridge and local motor-bus and taxi-cab proprietors and waggonette and cab proprietors might find it worth their while to run a service. There will be something like 500 men in camp and many who will gladly pay to be taken in to town for the evening. 11 05 12h

1911 05 19

Greater Cambridge editorial: Chesterton UDC will cease to exist, parishes of Cherry Hinton, Trumpington and Grantchester will be divided and urban portions come into Cambridge 11 05 19c

1911 05 26

Empire Day celebrations Grantchester, Toft, Swavesey – 11 05 26k & l

1911 08 18

Grantchester used to be well patronised by tea parties. The landing place was quite a centre of attraction for the villagers. But the hobbledehoy element always asserts itself wherever a few rustics are gathered together with nothing to do and an element of rowdyism was introduced. Visitors have had to run the gauntlet of boorish wit and clownish laughter and boats were interfered with to such an extent that it was unsafe to leave them. One cannot expect the river to be patrolled by police but there are sufficient rowing men on the river on Sundays to put down with a strong hand such conduct as that complained of. 11 08 18 f & g

1912 01 26

The long-sustained wet weather and recent snowfall have brought serious floods. Rising waters have caused the stoppage of the chain ferries to Chesterton, the towing path under Victoria Bridge was submerged and meadows between Grantchester and Newnham are under water. A ride on the Great Eastern Railway from Huntingdon to Cambridge presents a view of an immense lake studded with trees and the large Portholme Meadow is under water to a considerable depth. At St Ives basements in Bridge Terrace and kitchens at Filbert's Walk are flooded. 12 01 26b

1912 03 29

Today the population of the Borough of Cambridge is 40,560. On Monday it will be 57,073. The extension of the boundary now brings in Chesterton and the urban portions of Trumpington, Cherry Hinton and Grantchester. These suburbs were inhabited almost entirely by people whose living lay in Cambridge but were separated from it by the River Cam or purely artificial borders. It means that the residents will now be under the care of the Cambridge Town Council. 12 03 29c

1912 06 28

A crowd of about 10,000 watched Mr H. Ewen, the 'Daily Mail' airman give a flying demonstration from the University O.T.C. parade ground. The Caudron biplane was wheeled out of the enclosure and the engine started up. He ran along the ground for about 150 yards then rose into the air amidst the cheers of the crowd. On reaching a height of 600 feet he flew over Grantchester and Trumpington. The wind was too treacherous for him to attempt any risky manoeuvres but the public were quite satisfied and cheered as he landed. Mr Ewen was called upon for a speech but felt he had given a 20 minutes exhibition and had done his task. 12 06 28e

1912 07 19

Grantchester milk man embezzled – 12 07 19d

1912 09 13

Manoeuvres – Dash on Grantchester, aircraft crashes, Trumpington Street fighting, Newmarket operations – 12 09 13i & j & l; Battle of Grantchester over swampy meadows – CUOTC night operations cross river by boat bridge – 12 11 22b # c.45.4

1913 03 21 CIP

Parish council elections, Burwell, Fen Ditton, Grantchester charities

1913 07 18 CIP

Grantchester gentleman's bankruptcy

13 07 25 p12

Grantchester Baptist Sunday School centenary

1914 03 27

Grantchester housing – more cottages required – 14 03 27f

1914 06 26

The Storms. During the past week Cambridge has been visited by two severe thunderstorms. On Friday the lightning was very vivid at times, and following one vivid flash, a horse, belonging to Mr. Lander, Merton Cottage, Grantchester, fell down on the Mill Road and expired. The animal had been killed by the lightning. Another storm burst over the town on Sunday afternoon and although of short duration, was very sharp while it lasted. Some hours before the storm burst the sky had been overcast. About 2 o'clock several heavy claps of thunder were heard, and rain began to descend in torrents. In places large hall-stones fell. Vivid flashes of forked lightning preceded each crash of thunder. A house in Histon Road was struck, damage being done to a chimney. Two ladies, Mrs. Lumb and her daughter, who were standing opposite, received a bad shock, the elder lady being knocked down and rendered unconscious. Another flash appears to have struck the Queen's Arms public house in Histon Road. Two chimneys were damaged and a signboard destroyed. Several things inside the house were destroyed, including a looking glass, which, although thrown several feet away, remained intact. There were many instances of basements being flooded. The storm was all over in half an hour, and the remainder of the day was fine. – 1914 06 26

1914 07 10

Grantchester mill pit accident. A visitor took his wife for a peaceful evening excursion to Grantchester mill pool. But then without any warning the mill sluice was opened, releasing a torrent of water. The canoe was capsized immediately and the couple thrown into the water. Although the

wife could swim the modern fashion in skirts did not allow any freedom of movement and she found herself in difficulties. While onlookers gawped a butcher's lad waded into the river and drew her out and a passing nurse rendered assistance.

1914 09 25

County roads must be improved for military transport. Some need to be widened and corners rounded off with the War Office paying much of the cost. At Coton the road will run through Mr Hunt's stackyard, Grantchester church corner needs taking off; the road at Cherry Hinton needs widening near the Robin Hood with more widening in Fulbourn village. All will be strengthened to carry artillery. The idea is to get the military from the west to east without going through Cambridge.

1914 10 02

Boy scouts, Grantchester

1914 10 09

Military roads - Stretham to Soham, one of four to allow different armies to move from west to east at same time without going through Cambridge. The first from Potton through Harston to Whittlesford and Pampisford and on to London Road near Hildersham. Sinuous road through Grantchester and Trumpington on to Cherry Hinton and Fulbourn and away on the Newmarket Road. Another down Huntingdon Road, across Midsummer Common and along Newmarket Road. Huntingdon, Wilburton & Stretham where new road would start. Newmarket RDC to make and improve road from Cam through Wicken. At one point there was a green track where the whole of the road would be constructed. At Wicken there was another piece of road about eight feet wide where flint would need to be pressed in. Through Wicken the road was a good second class decent road.

1914 10 23

Boy Scouts, Grantchester

1914 11 13

Letter From France. Corporal A. G. Pointer, of the 1st Buffs (East Kent Regiment) serving with the Expeditionary Force in France, writing to his wife, who is at present staying at Grantchester, says: "I thought a lot about South Africa, but one at home does not realise what we are having to put up with here. I have seen more this last three months than I ever saw in South Africa; in fact, it is only murder, and not fighting. The sights are enough for one to see—some of the poor fellows blown to pieces. May God spare me to come back. The fellows pray of a night. No doubt you think I am telling you wrong, but to see shells bursting a few yards away makes your blood go cold. We know no fear, but our thoughts are for the ones we have left behind."

1914 11 20

Cottenham & Grantchester – housing working classes

1914 11 27

No Politics. Politics being tabooed for the season (or while the war lasts) the Unionist Committees of the two villages, Grantchester and Trumpington, met in friendly rivalry at cards recently. Playing at Grantchester, Trumpington won by one game, 15 to 14. The return match will be played shortly at Trumpington.

1915 01 29

Cambridge Floods. A heavy downpour of rain experienced last week caused the River Cam to overflow its banks, and the low lands adjoining the river were extensively flooded. At Grantchester the road from the mill to Trumpington was submerged for a distance of about 400 yards on Friday and Saturday, the road being impassable except in a vehicle. The water rose very rapidly on Friday, Sheep's Green, Newnham and Coe Fen became impassable, whilst Chesterton Meadows became inundated the water encroaching halfway across the roadway at Water Street, Old Chesterton. The ferries below Victoria Bridge were unable to be worked during the weekend, but were able to resume

on Monday. Although the commons were not flooded to anything like the extent they were following the blizzard towards the end of last month, large pools of water existed at places. At Jesus Sluice there was only a difference of about a foot between the levels of the water above and below the locks. The river has now gone down, and is almost at its normal level 15 01 29 CIP, 15 01 29a

1915 09 17

Notable Hebrew Scholar. We regret to announce the death, which took place at a nursing home in London on Friday of the Rev. Dr. Annesley Williams Streane, Fellow of Corpus Christi College and formerly Vicar of Grantchester. He was 70. A Hebrew scholar of great repute, the late Dr. Streane produced a large amount of work, his chief publications being an edition of Jeremiah and Lamentations, a translation with notes of the treatise Chagigah from the Babylonian Talmud and the Double Text from Jeremiah. His parishioners found him an earnest and kind-hearted parish priest, and in college, as Dean of Corpus (for 12 years) he treated the undergraduates with even-handed justice. He was Hebrew and Divinity Lecturer at Corpus 1875-97 and 1906 and was Senior Proctor in 1891-2. He took the degree of Doctor of Divinity 20 years ago 15 09 17 CIP

1915 10 27

Death of Dr. R. Assheton. The death took place at Grantchester on Saturday from heart failure, following influenza, of Dr. Richard Assheton, D.Sc., F.R.S., lecturer in Animal Embryology at Cambridge University since 1911. Dr. Assheton was 51. He had done a good deal of research work and was one of the few remaining embryologists in England. He was the greatest living authority on the early stages of mammalia development and on the foetal membranes of mammals. He was an extensive contributor to scientific literature and published the results of his research work in books and papers. The death of Dr. Assheton will be keenly felt throughout the parish of Grantchester. He was greatly interested in the wellbeing of the district and acted as chairman of the parish council. He was one of the managers of Grantchester Schools and was the chairman of the Town Lands Trust. For the past six years he has been one of the churchwardens of the parish church of St. Mary and St Andrew. 15 10 27 CIP

1916 07 26

New Vicar of Grantchester. The living of Grantchester (patrons, Corpus Christi College) has been offered to the Rev. W. R. Harrison, Rector of Shelfanger, Diss, who has accepted the appointment. Mr. Harrison, who was a Mawson Scholar of Corpus Christi, held curacies at Portsea, Stradfeldsaye and Byfleet. The living of Grantchester has been vacant since Easter, when the Rev. M.J. Sutton, who was Vicar for over 12 years, resigned on account of ill-health

1916 11 08

Induction of New Vicar. The induction of the Rev. W. R. Harrison to the living of St. Andrew's Church, Grantchester, took place on Sunday morning. There was a large congregation to witness the ceremony in spite of the inclement weather. The service was taken by the Ven. Archdeacon Cunningham, who also preached the sermon. The churchwardens, who conducted the new Vicar round, were Mr. J. Nutter, junr., and Mrs. Assheton. Evening service was held in the church on Sunday for the first time since the Lighting Order, the windows being darkened by dark material fastened to a framework

1917 12 26

Consecration of Church. There was a large congregation at St. Mark's Church, Newnham on Thursday afternoon when the Bishop of Ely consecrated the building as a chapel of ease to Grantchester.

1919 03 12

Bus service allegations of inadequacy, irregularity and overcrowding; interview with J.B. Walford of Ortona with details, including wartime when ran buses to Ministry of Munitions works at Hauxton and Grantchester – 19 03 12b

1919 09 24

Cambridge from the air – University bathing place in Grantchester Meadows – 19 09 24c

1920

1921 04 06

Grantchester war memorial unveiling photos – 21 04 06a

1922 06 23

At the meeting of the Rural District Council the Sanitary Committee reported that remedies were being applied to the Histon Brook, and meanwhile no more effluent was being discharged into the brook. Mr Chivers was doing everything in his power to see that the nuisance was being dealt with. Application had been received from Grantchester for a parish dump. Mr Francis remarked that all parishes should be asked to do the same sort of thing. There was so much tinned food consumed now, and the tins could not be destroyed in any way, so parishes should find some suitable dump for them.

1922 08 30

At a meeting held in the Grantchester Schools the proposal to purchase the entrance pavilion to the Royal Show ground, for a village hall was considered. Mr J.J. Lister explained that two years ago an effort was made to provide a village hall in connection with the war memorial scheme but this had to be abandoned owing to high prices. He had been told that if any offer in the neighbourhood of £300 was received they would be offered the first refusal. The building would provide a large central room with smaller rooms on either side and a pavilion for the cricket and football players. The proposal was that the building should be erected on the meadow to the rear of the Red Lion and overlooking the cricket ground

1922 09 14

Grantchester Hall, p3

1924 03 08

The county licensing meeting was told there were objections to the renewal of the licence of the Blue Ball, Grantchester. There were four licensed houses in the village, the population was 489, making 122 persons per house. The trade of all houses had decreased due to the decrease of the spending power of the agricultural labourer. The tenant said in addition to managing the house, he was a brick-layer's labourer. The licence was renewed

1926 01 18

Skating has been in full swing over the weekend. The Cambridge Sewage Farm has been the rendezvous of the majority of skaters and on Sunday over 500 skaters were 'on' in the afternoon. Mr Nicholls' field in Grantchester Meadows was flooded and many skaters availed themselves of the opportunity it offered, whilst others went over to Swavesey. Hundreds indulged in winter sports on the slopes of Royston Heath, tobogganing and ski-ing were general

1927 06 27

An inspection of the River Rhee from Guilden Morden to Cambridge showed banks were much overgrown and a number of trees had fallen into the stream. There was only one foot of water in the river in places. There are two mills in use, at Guilden Morden and Grantchester. One at Harston had not been used for a year and at Barrington no work had been possible for some years and the channel was blocked up. The river at Shelford was in a most dilapidated state

1927 10 26

Grantchester village hall, p6

1928 02 18

Grantchester's new village hall was opened. The building, which adjoins the Reading Room, is of steel with a stage, kitchen and cloakrooms. Mr Adeane, in declaring it open, expressed the hope it

would not only be a social rendezvous, but a place where political differences were left outside. It was desired to renovate the old reading room and start a small museum and a library. Babraham had a village hall 25 years ago, largely due to the enterprise of Mr Adeane who had also started a wood-carving centre there.

1928 10 06

Grantchester discovery, p8

1928 10 31

A disastrous fire resulted in the almost total demolition of the famous old water mill at Grantchester. The flames spread with such rapidity that within 30 minutes the position seemed helpless. The interior was just like a flaming cauldron, presenting a fiery beacon for miles around. The fire originated in the engine room where there was an oil engine, chemical extinguishers were tried without result. The men were beaten back by the smoke and flames; several were unable to save their coats and three bicycles had to be left to the flames. The only lives known to be lost were those of a cat and her kittens but it is thought some rats were also trapped, judging by the squeaks that were heard during the progress of the fire.

1929 12 13

Cambridge council agreed that the site of Grantchester Mill should be purchased by the corporation, they will offer £1,000. The house was formerly tenanted by Mr Nutter and carried with it the water rights and control of the river right through. This was of extreme importance to the town but what would they do with the meadow and the banks of the river? The bridge was built by Merton College for the use of the mill and might be a liability as it had never been taken over by Chesterton RDC or the County Council.

1930

1930 02 10

A memorial to Rupert Brooke may be erected at Grantchester using part of the money subscribed for the memorial on the Greek island of Skyros, where he died. But it will be deferred until the Skyros memorial is completed. The Rupert Brook tradition is still being maintained here; there is still a fabulous sale of his poems. In addition to his residence at Grantchester Brooke is most associated with it through his most famous poem, the original manuscript of which is one of the lesser-known treasures of the Fitzwilliam Museum. 30 02 10a

1930 07 25

The controversy over the University Farm on Huntingdon Road was resolved when Cambridge councillors rejected proposals for a road across the land. It had never been a ring road, only a road to be planned in the event of traffic conditions demanding it. It was altogether wrong to put an arterial road in the middle of a rural area which they desired to preserve and which they hoped would never be required. They should ensure that Grantchester and Coton were not swallowed up by Cambridge in the way that Trumpington and Girton were. 30 07 25a-c

1930 12 06

Sir – all Cambridge men will be alarmed at the threat to build an arterial ring road bisecting Grantchester Meadows. The meadows are owned by King's College. We regard their preservation as a trust; we will not build on them, nor near them. We will do nothing to change their character and refuse to contemplate such a calamity – The Dean of King's 30 12 06

1931 12 18

Grantchester mill house rebuilding – 31 12 18h

1934 01 08

A film entitled 'Cambridge and the University Town, directed by Peter Collin of Newmarket is a twelve-minute pictorial survey with shots of the backs, boating scenes and Grantchester. He had the collaboration of R. Colville-College, an undergraduate of King's. The photography, which reaches a very high standard, is by S.W. Bowler who shows considerable promise. The film, released by Equity British Films will be shown in Ely, Littleport and Newmarket. As a lad Mr Collin assisted in the operating box of the Victoria Cinema and is now a director of Argyle Talking Pictures. 34 01 08

1934 09 17

Consternation reigned when lightning struck two houses in Stretton Avenue, dislodging part of the chimney stack which damaged the roof. Soot was shot all over the place and there was a smell of gas. During the storm large hailstones fell in Grantchester while at Haslingfield Mr Norman Thompson's bus with a load of passengers was forced to stop when the hail beat a fusillade on the roof. 34 09 17

1937 01 09

The Blue Book Directory of Cambridge, published by the St Tibbs Press, comprises not only streets, trades and names of residents but also a wealth of information and a portrait gallery of our civic fathers (and mothers). An endeavour was made in 1936 to cover the immediate environs, including Shelford, Sawston, Milton and Grantchester. Now it has been enlarged to bring in Girton and Cottenham together with details concerning new or extended streets on the outskirts of the borough. It is extraordinary good value for five shillings. 37 01 09a

1939 03 07

Cambridge & District Town Planning scheme inquiry heard that Grantchester Meadows, a large area of land between Cambridge and Coton, the University Farm and land at the Gog Magog Hills had been safeguarded. An area of 160 acres near Trumpington should be reserved for a municipal golf course. But at Rectory Farm, Milton the field the Corporation wanted to take was the only old pasture on the farm and the tenant had 21 cows and a bull. If he had to give it up it would take 10 years before the grass would be useful for milking purposes 39 03 07a

1939 03 11

Grantchester parish council did not want the construction of any road near the village. One of the advantages was the acute corners which meant that people cannot go through at speed. Widening them would lead to increased speed and greater danger. The nearer a ring road was to Grantchester the more disastrous it would be. The beauty of the village was to be sacrificed to an ideal of a boulevard, an inquiry was told. 39 03 11, 10c

1940

1940 09 27

Macdonald scheme for flood protection fens – includes 'cut-off channel' from Grantchester to St Germans – 40 09 27b

1944 09 15

Married 60 years. Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Baker, of 111, Ross Street, Cambridge, celebrated their diamond wedding on Wednesday. They were married at Box, Wiltshire, on September 13, 1884. Mr. and Mrs. Baker have seven children living out of ten, having lost one son in the last war. Two of their daughters live in Canada. There are 14 grandchildren and three great grandchildren. There are three grandsons serving in the Forces—two in the Navy and one in the Army. Both Mr. and Mrs. Baker enjoy good health, and are 80 and 79 respectively. Mrs. Baker was born at Box and Mr. Baker was born at Colerne, Wiltshire. For many years he did dairy work he served as bailiff to Mr. Sadler and during the years 1913 to 1919 at Manor Farm, Grantchester. Both have received many telegrams of congratulations, cards and presents. 44 09 15

1947 03 14

Cambridge has been hit today by some of the worst flooding for 30 years. The rapidly rising and flowing river has invaded riverside homes, Midsummer Common and other open spaces are flooded, there have been fears for the safety of Silver Street Bridge, and there is no sign of any diminution of the abnormal flow. There is an unconfirmed report that the Byron's Pool sluice has broken, and Grantchester Meadows and the "Backs" are completely under water. Silver Street was closed to all traffic during the morning. There were fears that the rush of water would seriously affect the foundations of the bridge. Street lighting was switched on in Linton when residents of houses in Meadow Lane and Chapel Terrace made a hurried evacuation of their waterlogged homes. The water rose to well over knee-deep but was subsiding this morning. At Sawston the sub-power station was marooned and electricity was cut off this morning. The Great North Road beyond Brampton is under water and the A.A. scout at Brampton cross roads was "up to his knees" at his post this morning, p4

1947 07 02

Mr W.E. Doran, Chief engineer to the River Great Ouse Catchment Board, has announced plans costing £5,000,000 to prevent flooding of the Fens. The plans, which are described as being able quite definitely to give safety to the fens, are a modification of the scheme proposed in 1942 but shelved owing to the war. The 1942 proposal provided for the cutting of a new river from Denver to St Germans, with a balancing reservoir at Denver to accommodate the flow when the tidal door was shut. A new channel 30 miles long is planned from Denver to Barton Mills to cut off flood water from the high ground before it reaches the embanked sections of the fenland rivers. This channel up to the Lark is part of a previous scheme which provided for a cut-off channel going right up to Grantchester.

1948 06 11

Prisoner-of-war cited in divorce, Grantchester, p10

1949 02 05

Trees in Grantchester Meadows, p6

1949 03 18

Proposals for further extension of Cambridge boundaries to meet housing needs were disclosed at the Town Council. It is now suggested that Barton, Coton, Madingley, Fen Ditton, Girton, Horningsea, Grantchester and Teversham should be included.

1949 09 22

Two important freehold properties in Grantchester were offered by auction. "Lyndewode" sold by representatives of Ald James Nutter deceased and described as having absorbed much of the atmosphere of Rupert Brooke's village, was finally knocked down for £9,650. The Orchard Tea Gardens, including a small attached cottage with possession, did not reach the reserve price and was withdrawn

1950

1950 01 16

Grantchester cricket, p10

1950 03 23

A feature of this season's Cambridge ladies hockey club is that it includes three sets of twins, from the Harris, Macleod and Cook families. The club started over 50 years ago on one of Mr Nutter's fields at Grantchester but moved to the paddock at Pinehurst. They now play on the Perse girls school ground. Past members of the club include Miss Rose Macaulay, the authoress, Miss Irene Flanders and Miss Margaret Field Hyde, both well-known in the musical world

1950 07 28

It is not surprising that the advertised sale of such an exceptional property as the Mill House, Grantchester, aroused a great deal of interest. There is no other situation in the village comparable to

the house, set in a peaceful country garden. The bidding which started at £7,000 rose without hesitation to £10,700 at which price it was secured for Mr David Robinson

1951 07 05

The Queen visited the Royal Show; her route took her through Grantchester where villagers welcomed the Royal car with a number of Union Jacks which hung from houses and hedgerows, and even the petrol pumps of a garage. Princess Margaret travelled as far as Baldock where she turned back because she had developed a bad headache. The town clerk's daughter, Rosalind Swift, who was to have presented Princess Margaret with a bouquet, handed it to the Queen who said she would see that it reached the princess. Obtaining one of the best views was a small patient from Addenbrooke's Hospital, Terence Harley who has unfortunately lost his hearing and the Queen's words to him were written down by his nurse. & 6th p7

1952 07 19

I was very sorry to learn of the death of Mr A.E. Reeve of Grantchester Street, Cambridge whose articles brought to light many fascinating historical facts about Cambridge through the ages. His interest in old Cambridge began with the burning down of Grantchester Mill well over 20 years ago which roused the interest of the London newspapers who were guilty of some inaccuracies which 'A.E.R.' felt bound to point out. He acquired a mass of literature and became probably the most knowledgeable man on Cambridge and its past. Eminent members of the University often came to him for information. His elder son, Mr Frank Reeve, is continuing with his researches.

1954 05 31

A total of 29 cottages at Great and Little Abington were put up for sale, and the majority were purchased by the Cambridgeshire Cottage Improvement Society to ensure the preservation of the character of these two charming villages. Much will have to be spent in necessary repairs and rethatching to preserve them, as many are in the protected occupation of tenants who pay a rent of less than three shillings a week. The Society owns 22 cottages in Grantchester and elsewhere and has decided to embark on a policy to preserve what is still basically good, but in danger.

1955 05 12

A Grantchester landlord told the bankruptcy court that when he took the pub in 1951 he had spent £185 on a domestic refrigerator, £75 on one for ice-cream and £203 on a cooling plant; a glass-washing machine cost £90; such expenditure could not be justified. The summers of 1953 and 1954 had been very wet and some days there were no takings at all, though fires were lit and waitresses employed in expectation of trade. Then the barman pilfered £300-worth of stock. But he had acquired a Laguna motor car costing £902 on hire purchase. 55 05 12b

1957 04 26

Grantchester is famous worldwide and its picturesque main street brings gasps of wonder from many a visitor. It presents a picture of centuries ago but its sewerage system is just as antiquated. It smells. A council sewerage scheme must wait because it has a comparatively small population and other villages have first claim. But attempts to build more houses are virtually at a standstill because there is no sewerage system. 57 04 26a, b, c,

1957 05 03

Sir – Town and County planners want Grantchester to be left 'unspoilt' but Road planners want tear the guts out of the village and remove the Orchard House to allow more traffic to roar through. Household refuse is cleared normally once every four weeks and the absence of sewage is a problem. But if the price of modern drains is a vast expansion of housing, it will not be worth it – A.V. Watson.

1957 05 31

There are 33 council houses in Grantchester and 26 still have pail lavatories. One resident said: "Us people, we have a sense of decency, and when we have friends call we blush from head to foot. They

have been used to flush lavatories". But private houses are in the same position, it is a national problem. Villagers called for some form of night soil collection and a small sewage disposal scheme.

1957 06 07

The Minister has approved plans to reduce the rate of growth of Cambridge but increase the development of nearby villages like Histon, Girton, Milton and Coton. However no deliberate expansion will take place at Teversham, Hauxton, Madingley or Grantchester. Villages can only preserve their identity and character if they remain physically separate from each other so a Green Belt will be introduced. 57 06 07a

1957 06 27

Grantchester housing and sewage report – 57 06 27

1957 07 15

A coloured film based on Rupert Brooke's 'The Old Vicarage Grantchester' is being made. The Marlowe Society provided many of the actors and a local girl was persuaded to jump into the Granta 'with practically nothing on' for one verse. Producer John Stewart will have to be tactful during the filming of the lines "Ditton girls are mean and dirty, And there's none in Harston under 30". 57 07 15a

1959 09 11

A Grantchester Tested Vehicle has undergone a 100-mile test run by one of our own employees when petrol and oil consumption, brakes, steering and lights are checked under normal condition. We then offer you a test report and a full tank of National Benzole. Come to this small privately owned garage for the best in sales and service. We are never open after midnight but being the most progressive organisation in the county we are unique in our use of the phenomenal Ansaphone on Trumpington 3133. – Grantchester Garage Ltd advert. 59 09 11c & d

1959 12 30

The annual Grantchester Boxing Day barrel rolling contest was inaugurated three years ago by Mr R. Healey, landlord of the Rose and Crown public house. It is becoming increasingly popular and attracts people from the surrounding district. It consists of three races. The men's was won by Mr Maurice, the women's by Miss Barbara Peters and the children's by Miss Patricia Rose with Miss Sharyn Griggs second. The youngest competitor was five-year-old Helen Tanner. 59 12 30

1960

1960 01 08

Throughout the year the CIP carried a series of feature articles relating to Cambridgeshire villages. They included Grantchester illustrated village feature – 60 01 08 CIP

1960 08 20

Two Cambridgeshire rivers are so heavily polluted that the County Medical Officer has posted notices warning of the dangers to bathers. The River Lark at Isleham receives the outfall of the Bury St Edmunds sewage disposal works at Lackford. But samples taken at Waterbeach, Fen Ditton and Grantchester show the pollution in the Cam is even worse 60 08 20

1960 08 24

A young Cambridge businessman has started a contract-hire scheme for light aircraft. Anyone who can fly a plane can hire one of four Austers from Grantair of Grantchester for a day, week or longer. Some Oxford University students recently flew one to Ghana; their trip proved profitable for they have been offered executive jobs in the newly-formed Ghanaian Air Force. Another plane is giving holidaymakers joy rides off an improvised landing strip on Blackpool beach. The firm also have an aerial taxi service and plan to import kits of special ultra-light aircraft from France so do-it-yourself pilots can build their own planes. 60 08 24

1961 02 02

Grantchester scheme for 24 old persons homes and 15 other houses to go ahead – 61 02 02

1961 02 08

Grantchester has been in the news lately because of plans to pull down old cottages and build modern houses. Its ancient almshouses just past the cricket pavilion present a forlorn appearance and two or three are empty beneath their old thatch roofs. But the Trustees of the Towns Lands Charity are making every effort to modernise and so preserve these historic and attractive cottages while keeping their present appearance. The work will cost over £1,200 and they have appealed for help in raising the final £400. If they succeed this charming corner of the village will remain but there will be two comfortable and well-equipped cottages. 61 02 08a

1961 03 10

Gaming machine at Grantchester self-service stores confiscated – 61 03 10e

1961 06 08

'Grantchester', film of the Rupert Brooke poem screed at The Orchard – 61 06 08

1961 06 09

Rupert Brooke may be reburied at Grantchester – opinions divided – 61 06 09

1961 08 23

The 400-year-old elm tree outside the Green Man at Grantchester has developed a crack in its enormous trunk and threatens to fall on the building a few feet away. Men from Tollemache's brewery roped the tree together and secured it to the pub sign post. It is hoped it can be made safe by lopping branches but daylight can be seen through the hollow, gnarled trunk and it may need to be felled 61 08 23

1961 08 30

Miss Minnie. Pate began learning shorthand in the 1880s by taking down family conversations and sermons. Then she got a job copying manuscripts at Downing College which is where she first saw a typewriter. She joined the University Typewriting Office in 1892, taking over the business in 1900. After 1918 every member of the University wanted his work typed including Rupert Brooke who cycled in from Grantchester each morning with the next chapter of his dissertation for King's College. She was awarded an Honorary Cambridge MA and now spends many hours preparing an enormous scrapbook of material 61 08 30

1961 10 20

Fire gutted Grantchester Garage, wrecking three cars. Villagers awakened by explosions and 50 ft flames braved a 'blazing inferno' to push 12 other parked cars out of danger. One of the helpers was Reg Fuller, landlord of the 'Red Lion'. "It's a good job it was a wet night because sparks were flying everywhere and I was afraid they might get in our thatched roof", he said. Experts are trying to discover the cause of the blaze 61 10 20b

1962 03 23

Widnall, Grantchester Old Vicarage and dahlias – feature – 62 03 23b

1962 03 27

Robinson Crusoe Island, the strip of grassland in the River Cam between Fen Causeway Bridge and the Mill Pool, is to be developed as a beauty spot. Scudamore's boat building company will plant flower beds and lay lawns; old tree stumps will be uprooted and an old boat store pulled down. It will probably be used as a stopping-off point for people punting or rowing to Grantchester. Extensive

works are also being carried out to the river bank along the frontage of the Garden House Hotel as part of a gardens improvement scheme 62 03 27a

1962 05 17

“Audley Cottage”, Grantchester, which also houses the Grantchester Stores, was sold by auction for £6,000. The cottage is officially listed as a building of special architectural or historic interest. It faces Grantchester Meadows, dates from the 17th century and in addition to traditional latticed dormer windows has some quaint wood carving on the front. 62 05 17

1965 02 21

Sir – one of the loveliest spots on the River Granta is being destroyed. I refer to the woods on the upper river aptly called ‘Paradise’ During the war the hedge that gave shelter from the wind all the way to Grantchester was taken away along with a number of fine young walnut trees. Byron’s Pool has lost all its former beauty and is an eyesore, filled up with tree branches and mud so that swimming is dangerous. Up to 1945 the water was crystal clear and drinkable. Now it has become a dirty, muddy stream, polluted and unfit for bathing – B.G. Cash. 65 02 21

1963 91 25

By river to Grantchester – walking on ice – 63 01 25b

1963 06 08

Grantchester parish hall falling into disuse – 63 06 08a

1964 03 19

Young children go to Grantchester parish church every Wednesday after school for a special service. The idea is to introduce them to the church and give some basic knowledge. Rev P.D. Hewat says a father should be the child’s main teacher; however while all fathers had children, few children have fathers. The best way of teaching is through play, encouraging them to play at going to church and weddings. 64 03 19a

1964 06 19

Thatcher Henry Hancock of Grantchester retires, 86 – 64 06 19

1964 06 24

Grantchester barn to become music room of new house – 64 06 24

1964 09 02

Grantchester 17th century barn, part of Merton College estate, being converted into a music room – 64 09 02a

1965 05 18

Grantchester Baptist church which closed two years ago to be sold – 65 05 18

1967 05 25

Grant Instruments started in Grantchester, then moved Bulbeck Mill at Barrington in 1957; new works at Shepreth opened – 67 05 25

1969 07 25

Walt-ham-stell, large house in landscaped gardens, Barton Rd is the 1795 ‘House in the Fen’, a famous old coaching inn; is tunnel to Grantchester & Roman well. Permission granted for demolition but should be saved – 69 07 25a

1970

1972 03 16

Grantchester fight bypass inquiry, p13

1972 04 14

The Green Man at Grantchester calls itself proudly, if obscurely, a Bilstafayre Restaurant and expresses the hope on a little printed card that its proprietors have created the right atmosphere for you to enjoy. On a Saturday evening the atmosphere is controlled more definitely by the patrons and can get pretty thick. The clientele is on the trendy side - leather thongs and see-through dresses. There is a good selection of meats which you debate in the bar over a sherry or gin and tonic (39p). We chose Prawn cocktail (35p), Entrecote steak au poivre (1.20) with tossed salad (15p). The trifle (20p) was distinctly dry and a concoction of pears and meringue (20p) was rather ordinary. At 6.75 for two it is not cheap, p9

1972 09 22

The church clock has stood for far too long at ten to three, and Grantchester has deteriorated with time. Its inhabitants seem to be living still on past glories and cannot see that their world-renowned village is but a shadow of what it was. Or to put it in the words of Mr Reginald Lambeth and Mr Vernon Cross "The whole village can only be described as scruffy". Messrs Lambeth and Cross came to their conclusion one summer day in June. They had been charged with the task, unpaid, of picking out Cambridgeshire's best kept village. Swaffham Prior won the contest and Mr Lambeth and Mr Cross eliminated Grantchester in the second round. They were "shocked by the low standards of "property maintenance" although they mentioned notable exceptions such as the White Cottage. The decrepit state of things, they say, cannot be blamed on the roadman, who has to look after three villages, nor on the traffic. Bitterly they conclude; "People who are proud of their association of Rupert Brooke should at least keep to his standards"

1972 12 27

Flu hit the now-traditional barrel-rolling relay race at Grantchester on Boxing Day and a cool drizzle resulted in fewer than usual spectators turning out for the event. But neither the practical difficulties nor the celebrations of the previous day prevented a team from nearby Barton romping home minutes ahead of their rivals to carry off the 48-pint prize. Their nearest rivals were a team from the Queen's Head at Sawston. Women made their debut last year but illness had depleted entries down to one team - from the Green Dragon in Cambridge so the four women agreed to divide into two team and Mrs Tricia Newman and Mrs Ann Carter won the day. Their prize was 48 pints

1973 09 19

The environmental effects on the Cambridgeshire countryside and a number of villages in the building of the Cambridge bypasses are given in the Government's go-ahead to the projects. The inspector concludes that at Grantchester environmental intrusion would be mitigated by a properly conceived planting scheme & the effects on the village would not be serious. At Hauxton and Lt Shelford the environmental effects, though great, would not be intolerable. The Inspector does not support Girton's claims that the area will be severed in any practical sense by the Cambridge Northern Bypass. The new road would pass in a cutting and noise screening is recommended. At Fenstanton the Inspector thinks that the noise problem is more important than any partial severance of the village by the A604. He recommends noise screening

1973 12 27

Home sides routed all opposition at Grantchester in the annual Boxing Day barrel rolling competition. And not only did the Rose and crown men's and women's teams carry off the 24-dozen bottles of beer between them, they also ensured that it was a family affair. For with just one exception, the members of the teams were all related

1975 12 09

Grantchester Meadows road, p5

1975 12 17

The controversial proposals for building a major road across the Grantchester Meadows beauty spot just outside Cambridge have been abandoned for the time being by the city council following the surprise discovery of a legal document signed 43 years ago. The document, signed by the Borough Council, King's College and the Cambridge preservation Society, effectively bans the building of roads across the meadows by local councils anywhere between the city boundary and the south of Grantchester village. Legal experts are to examine the document to see if it is still valid. The document came to light after King's College authorities drew the council's attention to it. None of the council's legal department remembered it.

1976 01 06

Grantchester murder hunt, p1

1976 01 27

The experimental ban on heavy lorries using the narrow roads of picturesque Grantchester came into forced yesterday. Since 1972 villagers have been campaigning for a ban on heavy lorries using their twisting roads as a short cut to the A10 London road. Prof. E. N. Willmer, the historian who led the campaign said he was "well satisfied".

1976 05 06

Grantchester murder, p1

1976 05 28

Grantchester Red Lion, p22

1976 07 14

The bamboo brainchild of a group of Cambridge University student architects which has been built over Grantchester primary school swimming pool could become a permanent feature of the landscape, if planners agree. But the dome has already run into trouble with some villagers who claim it is intrusive and damaging the view from Grantchester Meadows. When it was originally put up earlier this year the structure was only intended to be temporary but now the headmaster, Mr Kenneth Jackson would like it to be retained. "It helps to keep the pool warm and keeps out leaves and other dirt. It has many uses and we are pleased with it", he said.

1976 12 29

Grantchester barrel race, p4

1978 12 12

Rupert Brooke's association with the Grantchester is now immortalised in drink after The Rose and Crown changed its name to the Rupert Brooke public house. The pub has built up an association with Brooke over the years; it sells copies of his books, has his framed writings on the walls and is the owner of a portrait of the poet. The landlord said: "We are the only ones around here to keep the name going like this and the most permanent way is by changing the pub's name"

1979 09 26

The Old Vicarage at Grantchester, immortalised by the poetry of Rupert Brooke, is up for sale. It is the first time since 1916 that the magnificent property has been on the market and offers between £120,000 and £150,000 are expected. Then Rupert Brooke's mother bought the house as a memorial to her son and gave it to the grandfather of the present owner saying she would like the garden kept as it was in her son's time. She also asked that interested visitors should on request be allowed to look around the garden. These wishes have always been complied with and it is hoped that a purchaser will again bear them in mind as far as practical, say the agents in the sale brochure.

1979 12 15

Grantchester Meadows sale, p4

1980

1980 06 21

The new owner of the Old Vicarage at Grantchester is the best-selling author Jeffrey Archer. When the house was sold last year the new owner's name was kept secret but now he has applied to demolish part of the out-buildings. However when contacted by the News he said "This is absolute drivel, I am not making any changes to the Old Vicarage and would not dream of touching it. The plan relates to a shed where boots and shoes were kept, one wall is leaking and we want to replace it." 80 06 21

1980 10 07

Grantchester villagers gave a massive thumbs-down to County suggestions that their 114-year-old primary school should be closed. The number of children had dropped from 108 to 31 as parents were not satisfied with its new ethos. It had previously attracted the children of visiting academics. But the number of children in the village is dropping, the teacher-pupil ratio was 1:12 when other schools had 30 or more children for every teacher, the cost was unacceptably high and there were places at Barton 80 10 07b

1981 01 07

A last-minute bid to lift the threat of closure from Grantchester Church of England school has failed; it will close in July 1982 and the pupils transferred to Barton. Villagers wanted it to be retained as a one-teacher school until there were more pupils. But rising house prices meant that people with young families could no longer afford to live there and it was a question of economics. 81 07 07a

1981 02 18

Cambridge councillors have thrown out the idea of ever building a multi-storey car park anywhere near the Backs. They condemned as 'barbaric' suggestions from senior officials that such a park, either above or below ground, could be built on college gardens, playing fields or open spaces along Queen's Road. "It is even more ridiculous than the plan to put a major road cross Grantchester Meadows", said Councillor Rosenstiel. 81 02 18a

1981 02 26

Grantchester's 116-year-old primary school, which is threatened with closure, could turn into a private school on similar lines to Madingley where a parents' co-operative has been running the school since the education authority withdrew support. There is strong backing for the school from the former headmasters of Eton and Winchester schools, two of its trustees. 81 02 26

1981 04 16

Grantchester skateboard, p21

1981 07 21

There have been many changes in the motor trade since Tony Sargeant took over Grantchester Motors 12 years ago. In that time he has progressed from a shed that could hardly house a couple of small cars to his recently completed new garage specialising in Skoda. His sales have trebled in the last three years; his customers keep coming back for more – and at prices from £2,340 on the road, who can blame them. 81 07 21

1981 07 24

Grantchester school, p15

1982 09 09

An ancient landmark is to disappear at Grantchester now that a diseased oak in the corner of the churchyard is to be felled. But few tears will be shed: it spoils the view of the church, its leaves have blocked gutters and the roots have undermined the wall. The church also needs to repair the tower and spire and complete the restoration of the medieval windows. 82 09 09

1982 10 02

Electronics wizard Clive Sinclair unveiled his new Cambridge headquarters. The building is based on a soft-drinks works with a futuristic new wing added. Sunlight coming through the glass roof of the new wing and water from a spring under the original building will be used to control air temperatures. Telephone and security systems will be heavily computerised. The reception area includes the largest polished bronze sculpture in the work by Elaine Blumenfeld who lives in Grantchester. 82 10 02

1982 12 16

Grantchester School closed last July and the buildings were handed over to the diocese. Now they are to be sold by auction together with the recreation area and sports field which goes with it and the swimming pool which parents helped to finance and build. The new owners will inherit the girls and boys toilets and two enormous classrooms. The master's house nearby will also be sold. 82 12 16b

1983 03 01

Grantchester plans, p10

1983 05 28

Grantchester author, Jeffrey Archer, plans to give £50,000 to Polish writers who have lost their jobs through membership of the free trade union, Solidarity. will donate all the royalties from his books sold in Poland. "Kane and Abel is a story of Poles and is selling very well in Poland. The Polish regime won't transfer the money out. I can only have the Zlotys if I actually go there and spend them. But Poland is not very high up on my list of places to holiday so I decided to give it to Solidarity", he said. 83 05 28 p1

1983 08 06

Jobless Cambridge school-leavers could be stuck without training courses because of a rumpus in upper-crust Grantchester. Villagers are objecting to plans to put mobile classrooms at their former village school, saying they would be an eyesore. It goes against planning policy and is a panic measure by the County Council who have not fully considered the implications. But without them there would be no prospect of running the courses. 83 08 06 p1

1984 03 12

Despite rain and a wicked wind Cambridge University undergraduates astonished bystanders with their Rag Day activities. Prince Edward started a sponsored crawl to Grantchester, there were parachute jumps, exhibitions of motorbike skills and a tug of war. Some students with distinguished careers ahead of them leapt from Silver Street Bridge into the Cam wearing whiskers, tails and picnic plates for ears in an attempt to fly across the river. Two perplexed French visitors summed it up: "If they are so clever, how can they be so stupid?" 84 03 12 p7

1984 07 20

Grantchester school, p32

1984 08 03

Prof Neville Willmer. Cambridge's Emeritus Professor of Histology, is a dab hand at sketching. The 81-year-old Fellow of Clare moved to Grantchester 15 years ago and his sketches of old buildings have been turned into postcards while his illustrations for 'The Old Vicarage' by Rupert Brooke have helped it sell numerous copies. 84 08 03 p26

1984 09 14

Grantchester school sale, p13

1985 03 08

Grantchester church clock stopped - 85 03 08

1985 09 03

Mrs Thatcher has called on Grantchester's millionaire best-selling author Jeffrey Archer to present the Conservative Party's case to the country in the run-up to the next General Election. Mr Archer was named as deputy to the new party chairman, Mr Norman Tebbit, who said he would bring "a touch of dash and style" to the organisation. Mrs Thatcher's radical reshuffle has also made Huntingdon MP John Major a minister for the first time. 85 09 03

1986 12 30

Rupert Brooke pub, Grantchester – 86 12 30

1987 11 11

Sydney Cockerell, the Grantchester bookbinder who helped preserved some of the world's most important works has died, aged 81. An expert at restoring and repairing ancient manuscripts and early books, he revived the art of marbling paper. He bound works by Wordsworth, Milton and Tennyson and he designed and tooled binding for the House of Commons Book of Remembrance and many historic volumes. He was awarded the OBE and received an honorary degree from Cambridge University. 87 11 11

1990 09 13

Grantchester post office raided – 90 09 13a